

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SAI-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /044 W

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R 241730Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3844

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT UR

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, IZMAILOVO EXHIBIT

DEPT FOR EUR/SOV, CU/EE; USIA FOR IEE

1. AP WIRE FROM MOSCOW YESTERDAY CARRIED STORY TO EFFECT THAT SOVIET ARTISTS PARTICIPATING IN IZMAILOV EXHIBIT HAVE RECENTLY BEEN HASSLED BY POLICE. FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH ONE ARTIST WHO EXHIBITED AT BOTH ABORTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL SHOWS FOLLOWING FURTHER DETAILS ARE PROVIDED FYI.

2. ARTIST LYDA MASTERKOVA TOLD EMBOFF THAT ALL ARTISTS WHO TOOK PART IN EXHIBIT HAVE BEEN HARRASSED IN LAST FEW WEEKS BY POLICE. ONE ARTIST SHE SAID HAD BEEN STRONGLY PRESSURED INTO SIGNING STATEMENT FOR SWEARING FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN EXHIBITS. SHE NOTED WRYLY ARTIST IN QUESTION IS CERTIFIED BY SOVIET MEDICAL AUTHORITIES AS PSYCHOLOGICALLY INCOMPETENT AND THEREFORE HIS SIGNATURE HAS NO LEGAL FORCE. MASTERKOVA HERSELF WAS CALLED ON SEVERAL TIMES BY UNIFORMED POLICEMEN AT HER APARTMENT INVITING HER TO GO TO POLICE STATION. SHE REFUSED UNLESS SERVED WITH SUMMONS. WHEN SHE INQUIRED WHY SHE WAS WANTED POLICE CHIEF SAID HE HAD SEVERAL COMPLAINTS FROM OTHER TENANTS IN HER APARTMENT BUILDING ABOUT THIS WOMAN WHO DID NOT WORK

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BUT STAYED IN HER APARTMENT ALL DAY PAINTING STRANGE PICTURES.

WHEN SUMMONS FINALLY CAME MASTERKOVA WENT TO POLICE STATION
WHERE SHE WAS TOLD TO GET A JOB OTHERWISE SHE WOULD BE
EXPELLED FROM MOSCOW. FYI MASTERKOVA A NON-JEW IS NOW
TAKING STEPS TO GET AN INVITATION TO EMIGRATE TO U.S. END FYI.

3. MASTERKOVA NOTED THAT OSKAR RABIN WHO IS KIND OF
SPIRITUAL LEADER AND PERHAPS MOST FAMOUS ARTIST OF GROUP
DOES NOT WANT TO GO TO WESTERN PRESS YET WITH STORIES OF
HARRASSMENT. SHE NOTED HE HAS SOLZHENTISYN COMPLEX
AND WANTS SITUATION TO BUILD UP TO POINT WHERE AUTHORITIES
WILL DO SOMETHING DRASTIC TO HIM AS MEANS OF MAKING DRAMATIC
IN WEST PLIGHT OF UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS. BUT SHE AND OTHER
ARTISTS HAD THEIR OWN POINT OF VIEW AND WERE NOT RELUCTANT
TO GO NOW TO WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS. THIS REMARK MADE
SUNDAY EVENING IN HER APARTMENT. YESTERDAY'S AP STORY
SHOWS THEY HAVE BEGUN TO TALK.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, IZMAILOVO, EXHIBITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW16196
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740304-0595
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741020/aaaaaqmy.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, IZMAILOVO EXHIBIT DEPT FOR EUR/SOV, CU/EE; USIA FOR IEE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005